



Filed Via Express Mail pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Rec. No.: EL 980 187 187 US

On: NOVEMBER 10, 2003

By:

LINDA E. HASTINGS

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Attorney Docket No.: NEKA 18.612 (100806-00199)

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TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Yoshihisa MATSUBARA et al.

Serial No.: 09/840,386

Filed: April 23, 2001

Title: **METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR  
DEVICE, AND PROCESSING SYSTEM AND  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE**

Examiner: Lan Vinh

Group Art Unit: 1765

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

SIR:

**Introductory Comments**

In response to the Office Action issued July 9, 2003, the period for response being set to expire on October 9, 2003, the period for response not being extended for more than one month, please amend the subject application as follows: